

December 13, 2018

The December 13, 2018 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Dawn Smith, Glenn Todd, Ruth Pante and Township Committeeman Michael Misertino. Mayor Joseph Watters arrived at 7:55 p.m. and Jim McMekin arrived at 8:15 p.m.

## MINUTES

The last paragraph of the November 8, 2018 minutes contains an error which should read the "Wild and Scenic River Act", not "Scenic and Wild". With that correction, Mr. Jewell MOVED to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Todd; all in favor.

Mr. Misertino reported a quiet activity time; the review of the Master Plan shows some lots may be rezoned, particularly property along the Musconetcong River. He said Environmental Commission comments can be submitted to the Land Use Board Secretary for review, but this Commission is not part of the Master Plan review process. The Land Use Board and the Township Committee will review and pass on the final Plan. The draft report does not emphasize tourism. He further reported the pheasant farm is being closed, this has not been emphasized as a tourist site in the past.

Ms. Smith said the County is proposing a grant to focus on agriculture, tourism, crop related items; the County wants municipalities to support agritourism. This grant would offer long term planning opportunities.

Mr. Tarlowe questioned whether tourism should be a part of the Master Plan, but he emphasized awareness should be raised. There are more than 300 farms in Mansfield with different farm assessments, so the maps need to be updated. Mr. Watters said the maps are being updated now, starting this year, and will be reflected in the Master Plan. COAH is now settled, that has delayed the updates on the master Plan. Mr. Jewell, Land Use Board representative, will bring updates to the Environmental Commission.

Mr. Tarlowe noted Mansfield has not opted in on the Highlands Act in NJ, thus we are not eligible for grants, etc. However, Mr. Watters said in the past, some reimbursement could be available for money spent on an engineer in regards to the Highlands. It was not clear if reimbursement could be or would be paid out, and as soon as we knew Mansfield would not receive reimbursement, we opted out. Also, lines of division were inappropriate; Borealis would have suffered by a division. Mr. Watters reported that Mr. Lavery said Hackettstown regrets opting in.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Smith attended a webinar, but this was an application process only and no deadline was announced.

#### VACANCIES

The Mansfield website shows people are needed for various committees but the details therefor are unclear; Mr. Tarlowe will provide text to the Township Clerk to enhance the town's website in seeking members for the Environmental Commission.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The year-end report will be discussed in January, and a 2019 goal might be a moth night. Rain gardens are a possibility also. With much limestone in Mansfield, Mr. Jewell does not want sink holes showing up after a very wet 2018.

The game farm is shutting down, and one consideration for the property is use as a wolf preserve, but Mr. Watters is unsure if the property is suitable. The Department of Agriculture has requirements for security and health inspections; Mr. Watters explained there have been no avian flu outbreaks in the area, so he questioned the imposition of restrictions. It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante